

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 MCT-01 /073 W

-----050441Z 129892 /22

R 041410Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3071

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGGS: PINT, PFOR, US, CU, NU

SUBJECT: STATE OF THE UNION

SUMMARY: AT ANNUAL INAUGURATION OF CONGRESS, PRESIDENT SOMOZA DELIVERED TWO HOUR SPEECH DEFENDING STATE OF SIEGE, DETAILING RECORD OF ADMINISTRATION DURING PAST YEAR AND REJECTING FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN NICARAGUAN AFFAIRS. SPEECH WAS PRECEDED BY BENEDICTION BY ARCHBISHOP OBANDO Y BRAVO WHO CALLED FOR RETURN TO TRANQUILITY AND WAS FOLLOWED BY HALF HOUR OF PRAISE BY CONGRESS PRESIDENT CORNELIO HUECK. END SUMMARY

1. BENEDICTION BY OBANDO Y BRAVO REFERRED TO PASTORAL MESSAGE AND WAS HARD HITTING CALL FOR RESPECT OF CIVIL, POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS RIGHTS. HE CALLED FOR SOCIAL CHANGE AND SAID IT WILL COME IN ANY CASE, IF NOT BASED ON LOVE, THEN OTHERS WHO ARE MOTIVATED BY HATE (REVOLUTIONARIES) WILL BRING IT ABOUT. HE CONDEMNED VIOLENCE AND CALLED FOR RETURN TO TRANQUILITY.

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2. SOMOZA BEGAN HIS SPEECH SOMEWHAT SHAKILY, PERHAPS AS A RESULT OF UNHAPPINESS WITH OBANDO Y BRAVO'S MESSAGE. THE SPEECH WAS LARGELY TEDIOUS AND DETAILED ENUMERATION OF GON'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING PERVIOUS YEAR WHICH WAS IMPRESSIVE FOR ITS COMPREHENSIVENESS. THE ECONOMIC DATA, NUMBERS OF NEW SCHOOL ROOMS, HOUSES, SCHOLARSHIPS,

LOANS, ROADS BUILT, ETC., WAS DESIGNED TO SHOW THE GON DELIVERING

BENEFITS TO ITS PEOPLE.

3. ON STATE OF SIEGE, SOMOZA ASSERTED IT HAS NOT INTERFERED WITH NORMAL CIVIC OR POLITICAL LIFE AND PEOPLE HAVE ACCEPTED IT AS NECESSARY SECURITY MEASURE. HE REFERRED TO LENGTHY LEGAL PROCESS WHICH CONTINUES AND THEN CONCLUDED BY SAYING STATE OF SIEGE WOULD

NOT LAST ONE MINUTE MORE THAN WAS NECESSARY FOR SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY.

4. ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, SOMOZA REFERRED TO NICARAGUAN EFFORTS TO PROMOTE END TO HONDURAS-EL SALVADOR HOSTILITIES LAST SUMMER AND NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. ON TERRITORIAL DISPUTE WITH COLOMBIA HE SAID GON WANTS A PACIFIC SOLUTION BUT WILL DEFEND SOVEREIGNTY. HE RECAPITULATED GON'S UN INTERVENTION TO DENOUNCE CUBAN BACKING OF FSLN AND SAID HE CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW PEOPLE CAN DENY THAT CUBA IS BEHIND THE TERRORIST MOVEMENT IN NICARAGUA.

5. RE HUMAN RIGHTS, SOMOZA STATED NO MEMBER OF ANY BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT IS VIOLATING ANY RIGHTS, BUT SIMPLY COMPLYING WITH CONSTITUTION AND LAW. HE SAID GON DOES NOT ACCEPT, AND WILL NOT ACCEPT, THE OPINIONS OF ANY FOREIGN FUNCTIONARIES ATTEMPTING TO VIOLATE NICARAGUA'S SOVEREIGNTY. THEN IN APPARENT EXTEMPORANEOUS ENDING HE TURNED TO ARTHBISHOP AND SAID HE WOULD USE OBANDO Y BRAVO'S WORDS, QUOTE I TOO CALL FOR AN END OF VIOLENCE. WE WILL SEE WHO IS THE FIRST TO COMPLY. END QUOTE.

6. HUECK REFERRED TO U.S. POLICY OF APPARENTLY ABANDONING KISSINGERIAN PRAGMATISM. HE SAID IF U.S. RESPECTS LEGALLY CONSTITUTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOVERNMENTS AND THEIR AUTONOMY THAT NEW POLICY WOULD BRING CLOSER RELATIONS. HE ALSO TOUCHED ON HUMAN RIGHTS THEME BY SAYING NICARAGUANS ARE SMART AND THEREFORE WILLING TO GIVE UP PART OF THEIR LIBERTY IF IT MEANS GREATER BENEFITS FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

7. COMMENT: SOMOZA'S STATEMENT ON STATE OF SIEGE COULD BE CONSIDERED BACK-SLIDING. HE EARLIER HAD PROMISED ITS END AS SOON AS THE TRIALS CONCLUDE. THE NATIONAL SECURITY LINKAGE IS MORE OPEN-ENDED. THEBERGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANAGU02054
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Line Count: 106
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Message ID: 8f7f169b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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SAS ID: 2646040
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATE OF THE UNION SUMMARY: AT ANNUAL INAUGURATION OF CONGRESS, PRESIDENT SOMOZA DELI- VERED TWO HOUR SPEECH DEFENDING STATE OF SIEGE, DE
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, NU, (SOMOZA DEBAYLE, ANASTASIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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